



Symbol or Saver?



This year, even more Chinese cities joined the world in shutting off their lights to save the planet.

But skepticism abounds.

Critics call the program an empty gesture that strains the national power grid and risks burning more energy than it saves.

But Earth Hour was never about saving power: it's about sending a message.

Read more on Page 3

Page 4



Foreign resident reflects on 38 years

Uwe Kraeuter, known in China as the spouse of actress Shen Danping, shares his insight into four decades of change.

Page 5



Minimalist master's first retrospective

Established artist Hong Hao's impressive body of minimalist collage is on display through April 27 at Pace Beijing.

City's drinking water may come from the sea

By Bao Chengrong

Beijingers may be drinking desalinated water from the Bohai Sea by 2016, according to Beijing Enterprises Water Group.

The company is currently laying a new pipe network that, when complete, is expected to meet the demand of 5 million residents, a bit less than a quarter of the current populations.

Three pipelines cross Tianjin and the Hebei Province cities of Tangshan and Langfang to Beijing are under construction. They would deliver 1 million tons of desalinated water from a factory in Caofeidian each day.

The factory's current output is a mere 50,000 tons of desalinated water per day.

Caofeidian is an island in the Bohai Sea. Because of its geographic location and the influence of currents, the waters around it tend to be cleaner than other parts of the Bohai Sea.

"The quality of seawater can be ensured and our desalinated water can be directly used as drinking water, as it is in many European countries," said Zhang Yilan, manager of Seawater Desalination Department at the company.

Zhang said Caofeidian's output as been tested by three laboratories and found to meet the national requirements for running water.

The factory goes through four procedures to produce fresh water.

First, the seawater enters an air flotation tank to filter out impurities. Then it removes any algae, grease and hazardous substances by passing the water through a membrane. After that, it removes 99.8 percent of the salt using a reverse osmosis device.



Seawater desalination equipment

CFP Photos



A seawater desalination factory in Tianjin

In the last step, the water is passed through a tank of calcium carbonate particles to improve its alkalinity and reduce its hardness.

The extracted salts are also put to use. While most domestic seawater processors dump the salt back into the ocean, Zhang's factory sends it to a chemical factory to be broken down into soda ash and caustic soda, and from there it goes to the Nanpu salt fields.

However, desalinated water is twice as expensive

as the capital's fresh water. The factory price of desalinated water is about 4.5 yuan per ton. Adding in 3.5 yuan in transport costs, the price would be 8 yuan per ton.

Seawater desalination is a growing trend. Even areas with rich freshwater resources are exploring the process. A company in Yanchen, Jiangsu Province plans to be the first to apply wind power to seawater desalination to reduce its energy consumption.

However, the boom has

brought to light many technical challenges.

A central government report on seawater desalination found that only 15 percent of the 756 patent applicants for related technology owned the rights to the technology they were trying to patent.

Tang Yongwen, a contributor to the report, said among the four core technologies in the field, China has applied to use three of them. But no domestic factories have applied for any energy recovery technologies.

The equipment, particularly the reverse osmosis device, is imported. At a major seawater desalination project in Tianjin, almost all of the equipment was produced in Israel.

Idle capacity is another concern. The Tianjin project only ever runs at 20 percent output because of the high price of desalinated water.

Wang Chun, manager of a seawater desalination company in Jiangsu, said all relevant projects need to take environmental protection into consideration. He said that dumping concentrated salts back into the sea could be a disaster for the sea environment.

Wang also suggested the central government draft some plants to support private capital investment.

"The market has not matured. Only when the cost goes down and the demand for freshwater goes up will these projects be pushed ahead," Wang said.

Beijing, Tianjin work to clean up air

Beijing and Tianjin recently signed an agreement to reduce the annual concentration of PM 2.5 pollutants by 6 percent in 2015.

Apart from strengthening their cooperation on pollution treatment technologies, the two cities will also establish regional systems for supervising pollution and issuing early warning and emergency responses, according to the capital's Environmental Protection Bureau.

The agreement will also require companies in the petrochemical industry, iron and steel industries and chemical industry to release periodic assessments of their influence on the air quality and implement suggestions from the affected public and relevant environmental protection agencies.

The agreement also calls for the two cities to work together on transportation, finance, industrial migration

and connection, science and education, logistics, personnel exchange and tourism.

Beijing and Tianjin have announced plans to build a financial integrated reform experiment area in Daxing District, Beijing and Wuqing District, Tianjin.

As for logistics, Beijing will deepen its cooperation with Tianjin on air, land and sea transport. Tianjin's port will give Beijing easier access to sea trade. (By Bao Chengrong)



CFP Photo

Earth Hour more symbol than power saver

By Zhao Hongyi

Lights went off across the capital from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on March 23 to save energy and protect the planet.

But Earth Hour, the yearly campaign, is receiving increasing criticism for causing dangerous voltage spikes and wasting more power to bring idled generators back up to full capacity.

Earth Hour was first proposed in 2007 by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), a ecological non-profit.

The campaign called on individuals, communities, enterprises and government bodies to cut their use of electricity on the evening of the last weekend of March as a symbol of their determination to fight global warming.

The campaign began in Sydney, Australia on the evening of March 31, 2007. As many as 2.2 million families, enterprises and government bodies turned out the lights for one hour.

In 2008, WWF China announced that more than 1,000 cities in 80 countries and regions participated in the campaign. Earth Hour spread to China during the next year.

The campaign's goal was to urge world leaders to reach a new agreement on carbon emissions at the Copenhagen Summit in 2009. Though that failed, the campaign raised awareness of atmospheric warming.

Many cities around the world, such as Manila, Bucharest, Warsaw, Johannesburg, Geneva and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, joined the 2008 Earth Hour.

Earth Hour formally arrived in China in 2009. The first city that announced plans to participate was Baoding, Hebei Province, famous for its cost-effective LED lighting technologies. Other Chinese cities joined soon after, included Beijing, Shanghai, Dalian, Nanjing, Nanchang, Hangzhou, Changsha, Changchun, Hong Kong, Macao and Taipei.

Last year, 124 Chinese cities participated in the event. Since then, the campaign has grown into a major event.

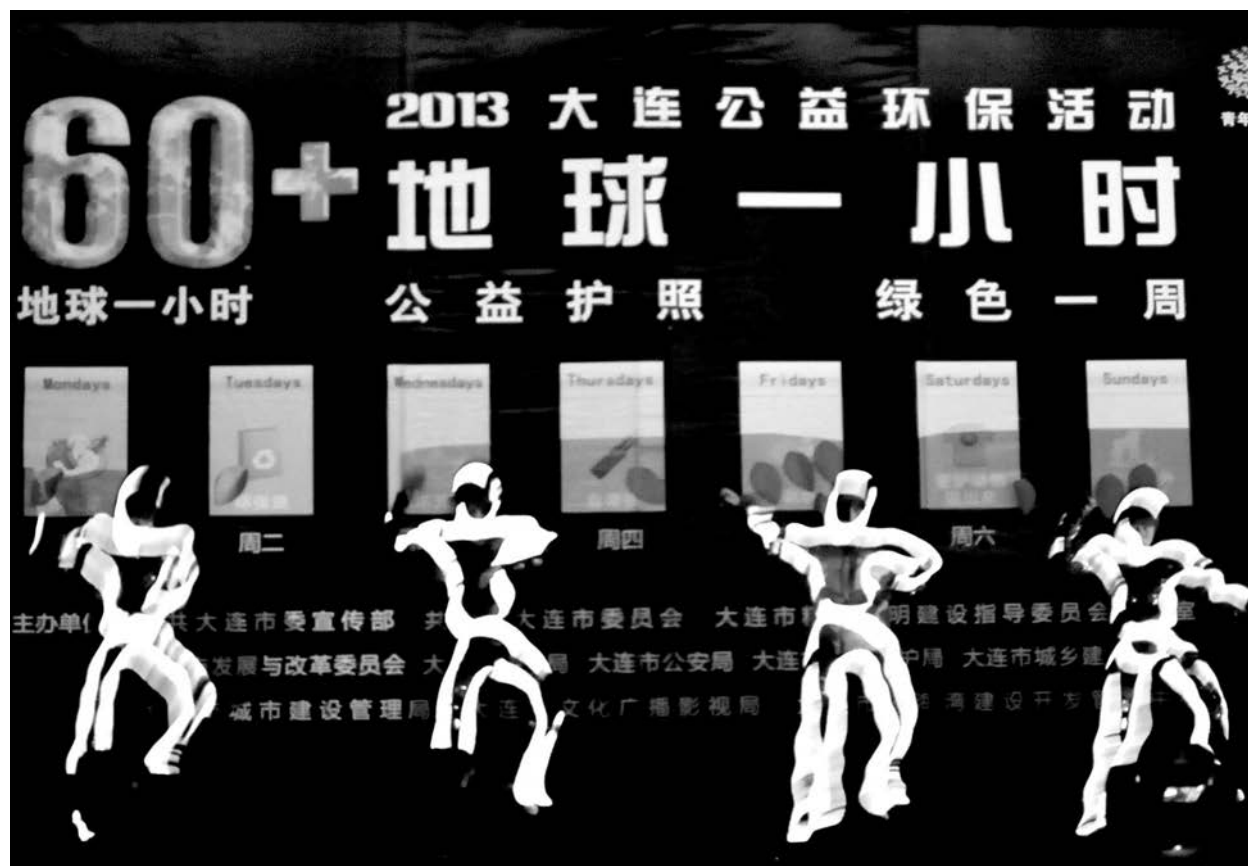
This year, because the last weekend coincides with the Easter holiday, the event was moved to March 23.

Aside from cutting one hour's use of electricity, Chinese participants have tried to augment the event with practices such as eating more vegetables, using renewable bags, avoiding driving and disposable chopsticks, and walking when possible.

But lightening accounts for only 12 percent of the total electrical use in China. Shutting off the lights for one hour does little to decrease the use of electricity, according to Guokr.com, a science website and the event advocate.

Guokr.com contested the rumors that Earth Hour could paralyze the grid or cause a spike in the grid. They concluded that the event was more of a symbolic gesture than anything else.

For WWF China, Earth Hour is part of its wider sustainable living campaign that includes promoting green energy, recycling, ecological conservation and responsible water use.



An Earth Hour ceremony in Dalian, Liaoning Province.

CFP Photos



Moscow



Vatican City



Hong Kong

Comment

Just do it!

The best way to save our planet is to minimize our use of electricity, especially shutting off lights, air conditioners and televisions when we don't need them and cutting the use of refrigerators.

— vicenttheo, biologist

Other ways to protect

We have other ways to protect our planet, like reducing our dependence on cars, finishing all our food, using public transportation and reducing our use of plastic bags.

— eagle dancer, ecologist

The campaign has value

The campaign helps influence people to reduce their carbon-dioxide emis-

sions. Each kilowatt of electricity we save prevents the release of 1 kilogram of carbon-dioxide and 0.03 kilograms of sulfur dioxide.

— Gan Han, volunteer, World Nature Foundation

Dangers exist

Energy plants often have to refuel their generators whenever so many lights go off at the same time.

Slashing our energy use by too much will cause the power plant's generators to idle. It takes a lot of fuel to get them humming again.

— ddim, engineer

There are better ways

When the lights go out, families switch to using candles. Unfortunately,

these emit even more carbon dioxide than the generators!

— eggcar, classical guitarist

Dangers exist, but small

The Earth Hour shutdown could cause a spike of five to seven times more voltage than normal on the grid. This lasts for only a millisecond, and the peak energy is less than 0.1 joule.

— volcano ice, professional commentator

Grasp the meaning

The campaign is about protecting our planet. That's what WWF is promoting and what we should take away from the event.

— Pan Long, freelancer

German reflects on his 38 years in China

By Liu Xiaochen

Uwe Krauter is no stranger to the Chinese public – especially since he tied the knot with popular actress Shen Danping.

For the last 38 years, Krauter has lived in China and worked to introduce his vision of the country to his peers in Europe.

This month, he released *So ist die Revolution, mein Freund*, a new book about his experiences intended to help Germans better understand modern China.

Cultural exchange

Krauter's new book is based on *Cross the Border: 35 years in China*, his earlier Chinese language release. It contains precise and simple descriptions of life in China during the 1970s and 1980s.

Living in another country for so long, he got used to having two cultures and two levels of understanding in his mind. The fantastic advantage is that he can choose from the strong points of not only one culture but two.

"Although China is somewhat different from Western countries today, its differences are far less striking than they were in the 1970s and 1980s," he said. "At that time, few people were able to go abroad. China was a mystery to them."

Krauter's latest work is *Lost Treasures of the Silk Road*, a documentary produced in cooperation with German Television ZDF that will be broadcast on the German and German-French TV stations ZDF and ARTE in September.

The documentary follows the story of a foreign relic hunter active in the Taklamakan Desert more than a century ago. Krauter explores the question of where archeology ends and grave robbing begins.

"In reading many books about that time, I learned that the British Museum displays fewer than 3 percent of the relics it stole from China. Most are held out of sight, in its basement," Krauter said.

"In my opinion, if they don't have the space or money to display them, then those pieces should be returned to China."

However, Chinese experts interviewed in the film argue that the relics are now elements of world heritage, and that there is no need for their return. They may actually do more good abroad, Krauter said, because they can help foreigners gain a better understanding of the Silk Road.

"There are too many documentaries about Xinjiang and the Silk Road that focus on travel and economics. But the region has a complicated history, even in China, and it's not easy for foreigners to grasp all the interaction that took place," he said.

Krauter also hopes to arrange an



Uwe Krauter in his garden in Germany in 1974

A young Uwe Krauter and Shen Danping

Photos provided by Uwe Krauter



Krauter's new book, published in Germany



Uwe Krauter and his wife Shen Danping

agreement between Chinese TV stations and German film companies that would introduce the TV documentary *Nanjing Road*, the story of one of Shanghai's most famous streets, to Germany.

He has also been involved with an effort to bring *Teahouse* back to Europe with a new cast assembled by Beijing People's Art Theater. Lao She's popular drama was last performed in Germany during the 1980s, when it won critical acclaim.

"There are many Chinese literary works that Europeans cannot understand, but *Teahouse* is comparatively close to their life," Krauter said. "Some modern Chinese dramas deserve to go abroad because they are easy for young people to accept."

Modern China

But although Krauter enjoys living in Beijing, he doesn't have to look far to find its shortcomings.

Living in Beijing and facing the serious problem of the air and traffic, Krauter said he did not feel very difficult.

"In the 1970s, Beijing's air was fresh. Now it is bad because China is developing," he said. "China is going through large-scale industrial development, most of which is with the investment of foreign companies."

"If all the foreign companies left, the air would improve. If we got rid of all the foreign cars, the traffic would be better. China's government, industry, economy, and society do have responsibility here. At the same time the West should not only blame China but also analyze their own role," he said.

Krauter said the strong competition of the last decade has made many Chinese people care more about how they live than their living conditions. Poorly implemented regulations and standards are another problem.

"The legal system only began to develop after the reforms of the early 1980s. Europe has had 200 to 300 years to build its legal system," he said. "It is not only a question of deciding on a legal system. But it does require education of each member of the society. And that will take generations. As it did in Europe."

He says that life as a foreigner in China is more comfortable than life in Germany because people from abroad are usually treated with special politeness.

"In Germany, my countrymen are embracing the past, as if afraid of the future and of losing their position. Germany is highly developed and socially, technologically top in the world while China is not. It's much more lively here, and I'm fascinated by this country and its development," he said.

"It is a privilege for me to be here because China is the country of the future."

Family life

Krauter and his wife Shen Danping has two daughters, one 27 and the other 16 years old.

Like many parents, he bemoans

their obsessions with electronic products and the death of reading.

"No matter, if living in the west or in the east, in a mixed marriage or not, the task of education for the parents is a difficult one. Young people today do not like reading. I feel it is a pity because their mind will be very narrow," he said. Although he admits the country has no shortage of book shops.

His children have been used to going to Chinese schools. They were both born in China, their mother is Chinese, and it would have been wrong, from his understanding, to send them to international schools, where the pupils usually stay for two or four years only, until their parents again leave the country.

He said the education systems in Germany and China are also quite different.

"Young students in Germany enjoy a much more relaxed atmosphere, whereas Chinese schools are quite regimented. I think the strict rules are good for children, because it makes their time at home more relaxing," he said.

He also said that Chinese youth are becoming more open and direct than their peers in Germany. "Young Germans are less inquisitive because they think they know everything," he said.

As for love and marriage, he said a love that must overcome many obstacles at the start is usually a love that will last.

"A lot of my friends had very simple love stories, and they all eventually divorced. I think couples need to struggle so that they can have a serious attitude toward their commitment," he said.

"Sometimes when in a hotel, and in the morning in the breakfast hall, you can see many couples. And quite a number of men are reading the newspaper, while their wives are quietly eating," he said.

"They don't really communicate, even worse is when I see couples in a bar or in a restaurant, and both of them concentrate on their mobile phones. I couldn't do that. When I am sitting with my wife at the breakfast table or wherever, I will want to talk with her. Everyday, I have new questions to pose to her."

Bottom No.6, 2009, scanned objects, digital, c-print, 120x205 cm, © Hong Hao

Photos provided by Pace Beijing



Zenist minimalism on display at Pace

By Celine Lin

One of China's most established artists, Hong Hao, 48, opened his first large retrospective exhibition at Pace Beijing in 798 Art District on March 16. The show displays his works from the late 1980s to present.

A graduate of the Printmaking Department of the Central Academy of Art in 1989, Hong made waves in the 1990s, with his works going on display in prestigious museums including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the British Museum and National Gallery of Canada.

Although the bespectacled Hong is renowned internationally, he maintains an unassuming figure. He works by collecting a massive amount of material, then painstakingly producing intricate works that contain profound, Zen-like ideas.

The exhibition is chronologically divided into seven parts: Selected Scriptures, Catalogue, Elegant Gathering, My Things, Writing, As It Is, and a new series, Reciprocating. As for the central, connecting idea, Hong said he immerses himself in searching for paradoxical states, which deviate from routines and simultaneously construct "some infinite space which contains the contrasts of all the beings in the universe."

In the first part, featuring silk-screens, Hong forms world maps that are partly identical with the real world but partly disjointed. The motivation, Hong said, is to "set up a rule which deviates from the original."

Hong dissects original cultural information, then redefines it by creating new worlds. For example, the works *The New World Political Map*, *The World Map No.1*, *The New World Physical Map* feature false maps that are authoritatively verified.

His rule of thumb is to incessantly question existing orders. "It's necessary to keep a skeptical attitude," he said.

The series *My Things* traces ordinary life. By hoarding common objects,



As It Is - The writings of a Hundred I, 2011, pencil on document, mounted on aluminum, framed with acrylic, 120x195x7 cm, © Hong Hao



My Things Book-keeping of 2004-05 A, 2006, scanned objects, digital, c-print, 120x196 cm, © Hong Hao

Hong ponders upon the relationship between society and the individual. "It's an everyday labor, gradually becoming a part of my life," he said. "To be more precise, it's like the spiritual practices of a yogi, which ultimately generates introspection."

The artist is patient while working. In *Writing*, he scrupulously writes Chinese characters on toilet paper and tissue. And Hong said he enjoyed the process of making *Personal Data and Data*: "The material is fragile. The writer must be careful. If you are too nervous or hurried, the paper will be

broken easily. Although concentration is extremely crucial, excessive dedication leads to bad outcomes."

When Hong began to write *The Diamond Sutra*, he felt so absorbed that he wasn't even aware that he began writing traditional characters instead of simplified ones.

Hong's eye for oriental philosophy is also revealed in the works in the *Bottom* series, in which the artist scans the bottoms of melded objects.

"The motivation for creating art is rooted in my interest in 'the other side,'" Hong said. "I've been striving to unveil

the existence of another universe."

He intends to eliminate every possible hint about the value of a certain object. In *Bottom*, he has created a flattened world where differences are removed and everything is equal.

"I repetitively undergo the experience of scanning the bottoms of objects on a daily basis," he said. "When scanning the reverse sides, I find that the original functions, packages and values of the objects are discarded."

The highlight of the exhibition is in *Reciprocating*. *The Disappearance of a Bill and the Birth of a Piece* is a euro banknote that's erased of its currency denomination. Other paintings in this series display a thorough loss, in which materials only maintain their original shape.

"I copy the outline of their bottoms to create an abstract, de-materialized frontier," Hong said. "These shapes begin to grow and expand as they should be, with new shapes emerging from interspaces between them."

For Hong, the characteristics of an artist are always revealed through his or her work.

"To be more precise, the artist's motivation or attitude, no matter how good or bad, will be revealed in the work," he said.

The exhibition will continue until April 27.

Tsingying Film Records China: book documenting social change



Lei Jianjun



Li Ying

Photos provided by Tsingying Film

By Chen Nan

Starting from the late 1990s, documentaries have sought new methods of looking at China's changes, recording what drives different people to survive and the problems they must overcome.

Chinese filmmakers chose subjects from official, grand narratives and made more personal films about ordinary people. The focus was on the present, within the social context, touching upon sensitive issues that older generations wouldn't explore.

Creating momentum

There has been a quiet renaissance of sorts in Chinese documentaries, with filmmakers inspired by the work of legendary directors and cinematographers such as Chen Xiaoping (*A Bit of China*, 2012), Jia Zhangke (*I Wish I Knew*, 2010) and Fan Lixin (*Last Train Home*, 2010).

The book series, *Tsingying Film Records China*, consisting of three volumes, namely, *Fortune Teller* (2009), *Night of an Era* (2010), *The Next Life* (2011), brings together 45 filmmakers to talk about questions of China's status quo and truth, providing an insider's view of the profession.

The interviewees include Chen Xiaoping (*Beichuan Middle School*), Wang Qingren (*Game Theory*), Lei Jianjun (*Beijing 2008*), Du Haibin (*1428*) and Dong Jun (*Flood*).

Certain themes abound: conflicts between rural and urban areas; appreciation of China's pre-industrial natural beauty; problems in the country's path to social and economic development.

"But what binds these compelling stories is not their similar subjects and humanitarian angle, it's their commitment to social change," said Lei Jianjun, the chief editor of the books.

Lei, also a professor at Tsinghua University's School of Journalism and Communication, once was a documentary director of CCTV and visiting scholar of Manchester University. He along with his colleagues in Tsinghua University, Yin Hong and Zhang Xiaopin, launched the organization Tsingying Film studio nearly seven years ago.

In 2009, the organization began to arrange screenings and interviews for professional and aspiring filmmakers, as well as documentary enthusiasts that were followed by conversations with the directors.

"We really had quite a bit of flexibility and freedom in picking the content and subjects," said Li Ying, a volunteer assistant.

"Everyone is interested in China's transformations, and for some reason documentaries have become a popular way people to understand China," said Liang Junjiang, one of the editors of the series.

Possibility of attention

"Inexpensive video camera equipment and video editing software have helped fuel this new wave of truth-tellers, bringing the tools of the craft within reach of amateurs and students, as well as independent filmmakers on a budget," Liang said.

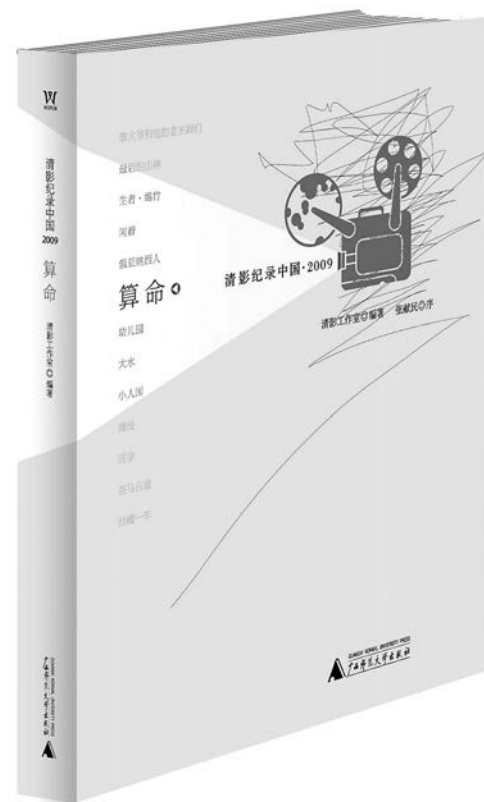
But on the other side, low budgets and tight schedules are generally believed to be the main obstacles for the growth of China's documentaries.

"Even under such circumstances, numerous excellent works are produced in China every year," Lei said. "Unfortunately, audiences seldom have access to these films."

He said things may turn around after the launch of a new documentary screening program in Beijing, which will hopefully stimulate audience interest.

Tsingying Film's first screening was on the afternoon of April 25, 2009. Organizers were determined to screen one indie documentary per week, for free.

Lei said they purchased dozens of chairs that day from the wholesale market Jinwuxing, and anx-



iously waited them to be filled.

"The overall response has been great," Lei said, with filmmaking veterans showing up along with students, directors and producers.

That brought up a problem: where could they regularly obtain a comfortable screening space? The once-per-week idea had to be put on hold.

Later, the hotel Wenjin, flanking Tsinghua's campus, came to the rescue.

A partnership was forged between Tsingying Film and Wenjin Hotel. They would screen a film every week as part of the screen program, giving documentary fans an opportunity to meet and discuss.

Perseverance

Four years after the establishment of Tsingying Film studio, Lei has invited more than 140 prominent filmmakers for screenings and projected more than 260 films.

Each filmmaker talks about his or her lessons and experiences, illustrated with scenes from his or her films. The talks are transcribed by volunteers and students from Tsinghua.

Before organizers finished volume four of Tsingying Film Records China, the team received an ISBN number that enabled bookstores to carry the publication. (It can be found on Dangdang.cn and Amazon.cn.)

They're able to do this largely because of the prominence of editorial directors Lei and Liang, who are prolific and renowned essayists and authors in documentary studies.

"This is really a microcosm of what's out there," Lei said. "Some of the themes of the documentaries will overlap, but filmmakers will always have interesting new material."

Springs items to share

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* interviewed readers about seasonal – spring, namely – products they've purchased.



Wormwood

This plant has been used in medicine for thousands of years. "Spring is the season for fresh wormwood," said Liu Momo, a foodie and scriptwriter. "Thanks to e-commerce, you can purchase fresh wormwood on Taobao." She uses fresh wormwood to make *zongzi*, a popular snack for Tomb-Sweeping Day next month.

Fresh wormwood can be used to make tea or cooked with congee for an immune system boost. Around this time, colds are common because central heating has been turned off, despite wintry cold fronts.

"You can also use boiled wormwood water for bathing or soaking your feet," Liu said. It helps boost your circulation.

Make sure to drink ginger and brown sugar water when you soak your feet in the hot wormwood water. Your pain will be relieved when your body breaks into a sweat.

Website: apmarket.taobao.com



Sporty heels

If you want to attract more attention, a pair of heels is the perfect tool for doing so. After getting rid of your chunky winter coats, heels helps one look taller, skinnier and sexier. DKNY's sporty heels are a must-buy for spring, giving wearers the comfort of regular shoes with the heel's added height.

DKNY

Where: 3/F, Shin-Kong Plaza,
87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6530 5888



New nail polishes

Spring is short in Beijing. That means much of the apparel suitable for the season can only be worn for two weeks. If you want to save for clothes but still want something fresh, try a new nail color. For this season, the trend has gone from ladylike to softer tones.

Lily's Nails

Where: 5/F, 3.3
building, SanlitunBei
Jie

Open: 10 am – 10
pm

Tel: 5136 5829



Candy-colored porcelain

These soft-hued colors have remained popular in recent years. As spring is around the corner, it's time to prepare new cups and teapots for British high tea. You can find these delicate porcelains in beautiful colors at Whittard (starting at 600 yuan per set) or Capital M (250 yuan per cup set). You can also buy this cute milk cup for 19 yuan.

Website: wmschina.taobao.com



CFP Photos



Sugarcane prawn, 88 yuan

New spring menus for you

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* scouted two popular restaurants' new menus for surprises.

Nuage's new menu for spring

To stay on the top of the local Vietnamese restaurant scene, the manager and chef of Nuage spend one month every year in Vietnam to look for new ideas.

Its recommended dishes include fresh mint shrimp roll (66 yuan), made of round rice flour pancakes wrapped in rice vermicelli, fresh mint leaves, garlic chives and topped with one or two shrimp. Eaten with Vietnamese Hoisin dipping sauce and peanuts, it's delicious.

We like its new sugarcane prawn (88 yuan), a traditional Vietnamese dish from the central region. The chef wraps the shrimp on a sugarcane stick and deep fries it. The shrimp meat absorbs the sugarcane juice and becomes sweeter and fresher. Dip the stick in Nuage's homemade sweet and spicy sauce for extra yumminess.

We also like its grilled eggplants (45 yuan). The eggplants are well grilled, peeled and topped with the restaurant's homemade lemongrass sauce.

Green papaya salad is also very fresh and very good.

When the weather gets really warm, the restaurant invites diners to have a cocktail on the terrace while enjoying the breeze.

Nuage

Where: 22 Qianhai Houyan, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – late

Tel: 6401 9581 / 6402 1663



Handmade fish balls

Photos provided by Camilla



Inside Camilla Chinese Cuisine

Weekend family set of Chaoshan food

The Chinese idea of weekend brunch is Cantonese dim sum. For many years, the elderly and early retirees in Guangdong Province have enjoyed breakfast at dim sum restaurants after morning exercises. It's also a tradition for many in the Cantonese-speaking community to enjoy long, leisurely dim sum brunches with family or friends.

We recommend Camilla's new weekend family set for those who want the dim sum experience tailored for the mainland. It comes with non-traditional options such as hotpot.

Chaoshan food is known for being selective, utilizing a variety of cooking techniques and bringing out the flavors of fresh ingredients.

Chaoshan cuisine gives off the impression of being expensive, because it was once popular among the upper class of Hong Kong, where a quarter of the tycoons are from the Chaoshan region.

But in fact, it's quite affordable. The weekend family set is available from 10:30 am to 9:30 pm every Saturday and Sunday. It's 298 yuan for three, 598 yuan for six and 1,288 yuan for 10 diners.

Apart from its classic Chaoshan food, like *lushui*, Chaoshan-style marinated meat and tofu, Camilla is bringing new dishes for spring and summer.

We liked the hotpot the best. Chaoshan beef, especially handmade beef, and fish balls are famous for their chewy texture and good flavor. Quality beef and fish balls require many man-hours to prepare, and they just don't taste right if done by machine.

The vegetables are shipped daily from Shenzhen to guarantee their freshness.

Other dishes, such as stewed spring bamboo shoots with pork and mushrooms, fried conch and asparagus, and tofu are also recommended.

The restaurant is located on the third floor of Soho Nexus Center, near to new Bayer office building along East Third Ring Road. It's spacious and has many separate rooms, ideal for family gatherings.

Camilla Chinese Cuisine

Where: 3/F Soho Nexus Center, 19 Dong Sanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10:30 am – 9:30 pm
Tel: 5625 5888/5967 0567



Inside Nuage



Shrimp rolls, 66 yuan



Nuage's terrace
Photos provided by Nuage